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Performance of the programme of work and budget, including implementation of the resolutions of the Environment Assembly

Assessing Global Resource Use: A Systems Approach to Resource Efficiency and Pollution Reduction

Note by the secretariat

Summary

Pursuant to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/8 on sustainable consumption and production, the International Resource Panel, which is hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme, has produced as an interim response a report entitled *Assessing Global Resource Use: A Systems Approach to Resource Efficiency and Pollution Reduction*. Global material resource use is expected to reach close to 90 billion tonnes in 2017, disrupting the Earth's systems with devastating consequences for human health and mortality. The Panel's report highlights ways in which the efficient use of natural resources can be one of the most cost-efficient and effective ways of reducing the environmental impacts, including pollution, of such use, while contributing to the achievement of sustainable development and climate-related goals. It pinpoints seven strategies for system-wide pollution reduction and more sustainable resource use throughout the economy, and highlights the links between resource use, infrastructure, air pollution and human health in cities. The main report and its summary for policymakers are available from the website of the International Resource Panel (http://www.resourcepanel.org/reports/assessing-global-resource-use) as well as on the United Nations Environment Programme website (http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/node/37114/).

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